

February 9, 1976

SENATOR KOCH: Senator Kime, would you yield to a question?

SENATOR KIME: Yes.

SENATOR KOCH: Will this be your priority bill if it gets out of Judiciary Committee?

SENATOR KIME: Yes, it will.

SENATOR KOCH: Thank you. This is the point I want to make ladies and gentlemen, I really believe that Senator Chambers bill should become law. If, in effect, 782 becomes law we can correct that a little later on.

I think it's amazing that 432 sat in the Government Committee beginning early last session. It has sat all during the summer months. Yet Senator Stoney and myself, from the same area that we're talking about basically, received no communications till the last couple weeks when the heat became evident. This amazes me that the sheriff of Douglas County, popularly elected by the people, thought he could ignore this body in trying to determine minimum standards for those men that serve as specials. I'll say it one more time as repeated to me last night, the common duty of a special in Douglas County was basically that was a very effective tool for re-election of that person seeking that high office. If you want to go back and check the transcript in the Government Committee that's exactly what I said. It would be great to have 210 specials so when it became time for our elections they were ready to go for your re-election.

I would hope that you'll accept Senator Chambers amendment to strike the emergency and let this bill proceed to final law. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Stoney.

SENATOR STONEY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I have before me some information that I think will be quite enlightening. It pertains to Nebraska statutes that we presently have which requires training of special deputies at the Grand Island Law Enforcement Training Center. In conjunction with hearings held on LB 420 and the bill that we're debating now, LB 432, Mr. Don Webb, who is Director of the Law Enforcement Training Center at Grand Island, testified that the statutes, and I refer specifically to 81-1401 which I have before, mandates that special deputies be trained at the Grand Island Center. In part this is what Mr. Webb said, "If that special deputy, paid or unpaid, works as a police officer for more than 100 hours a year he must, within the year, attend and successfully complete a 300 hour course." He went on to say that if we didn't have this restraint, the 100 hours, that instead of having qualified, trained personnel on the streets you'd have a bunch of special or reserve forces that aren't trained. I know he'll be in uniform, he'll carry a weapon and the public doesn't realize that he isn't trained. It's not to the best interest of the public to let this happen.